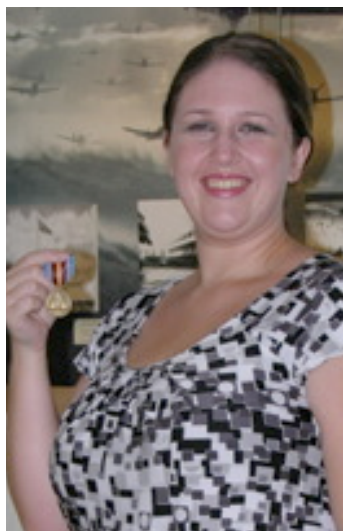


In this week's Kukini



■ Base historian makes some history of her own while deployed to the Middle East **A4**

News Notes

Community Assessment Survey — The Air Force Community Assessment Survey period is in its last week. The number of spouses of active-duty Air Force members who have completed the survey Air Force wide is low. To increase the validity of the survey, all spouses of active-duty Air Force are encouraged to complete the survey by online at <http://spouseAFCAsurvey.com>. The Web site access code is SpouseAFCA.

Air Force Ball Golf Tournament — The Hawaii Top III are hosting a Golf Tournament next Friday at Mamala Bay with guest speaker, Maj Gen Hostage. Ticket prices are \$65 for E-1 to E-4 and GS 1-3; \$75 for E-5 to O-3 and GS 4 to GS 8; \$80 for O-4, GS 9 and non-AF DOD civilians; \$100 for non-DOD civilians. Play for a chance to win a Harley Fat Boy motorcycle and a Land Rover luxury SUV with a hole in one on pre-determined holes. For more information, call Master Sgt. Pieper at 449-3116 or Senior Master Sgt. Richards at 449-0516.

2008 NAIMES Student Spotlight Award — The National Association of Institutions for Military Education Services is announcing a scholarly achievement opportunity. Apply to compete for \$1,200 cash award. Applications and information are available at www.naimes.org Deadline is Aug. 29. For more information, call the Force Development Flight at 449-6363.

Hawaii Discount Books — Buy one, get one free — that just \$10 for two books! The University of Hawai'i Anuenue books feature coupons from more than 100 local establishments with a value of over \$4,000. It's a great way to try new places and save money. Proceeds support the UH athletic program and all coupons are valid until Dec. 31, 2008. Books are available at the ITT office, Bldg 1711, on Kuntz Ave. For more information, call 448-2295.

Services B2
Crossword B3
Sudoku B3
Hickam History B3
Movies B4
Classifieds B5-8

Wing commander looks ahead

By Jeff Nicolay
Hickam Kukini editor

Being wing commander on a base like Hickam is a big job — hard work, long hours, tons of responsibility ... but just ask him and Col. Giovanni K. Tuck, 15th Airlift Wing commander, lays it out loud and clear: he's living the dream.

"It's a great opportunity to be able to command in any way," he said in an interview with the Kukini on Tuesday. "But to command in your own back yard? That's unheard of for a wing commander. My wife, Susie, and I are truly blessed."

To hear him tell it, that walking-on-air status should serve him well as he sets off on what he clearly anticipates will be a productive two years

at the 15 AW helm.

"I want to get out from behind my desk, to visit our Airmen ... to get a feel for how they're doing their jobs, and help them make their work environments better," he said. "We're also obligated to take care of our deployed spouses and families, and these programs are the ones we're going to look into first — including our schools and our services programs on base. Right now, my sense is everything's fine, but these are the things I want to look into right away."

Asked what his short-term plans were for the wing in a broader sense, the colonel made it clear he'd given the matter some thought.

"I have a 30-day agenda to See TUCK, A4



Photo by Jeff Nicolay

Col. Giovanni Tuck consults with 15th Airlift Wing command section staff members Staff Sgt. Maylene Little (center) and Staff Sgt. Ashanti Richardson.

Colonel Baumgardner takes command of Mission Support

By Jeff Nicolay
Hickam Kukini editor

Under cloudy skies that threatened more rain and prompted a last-minute change of venue from Freedom Tower Mall, Col. Charles R. "Rusty" Baumgardner took the reins of the 15th Mission Support Group from Col. Matthew J. Dorschel in a change of command ceremony held Tuesday morning inside Hangar 35.

Colonel Baumgardner comes to the 15th Airlift Wing from 13th Air Force, where he had spent the past 12 months as Communications and Information director.

"I am profoundly hum-



Photo by Mark Bates

Col. Charles R. 'Rusty' Baumgardner, new 15th Mission Support Group commander, speaks to the assembled crowd during Tuesday's change of command ceremony held inside Hangar 35.

bled," said the colonel. "It is a special privilege to serve with a team of people who are at the

heart of making strategic air mobility and wartime support missions possible in the Pacific

theater — the men and women of the 15th Mission Support Group."

In his new role as 15 MSG commander, Colonel Baumgardner will oversee the following base units: Airman and Family Readiness Flight, 15th Civil Engineer Squadron, 15th Communications Squadron, 15th Contracting Squadron, 15th Mission Support Squadron, 15th Security Forces Squadron, 15th Services Squadron and 15th MSS Civilian Personnel Flight.

Departing Hickam with his family, Colonel Dorschel moves on to a teaching position in the ROTC instructor school at Washington State University.

Sea Breeze to offer limited service after last week's fire

By Jeff Nicolay
Hickam Kukini editor

Despite significant damage to the kitchen area of Hickam's Sea Breeze Restaurant in an early morning fire on June 26, the facility will be open today as part of the base's All American Beach Blast 4th of July festivities.

"The Sea Breeze will be open for business from 5 to 8:30 p.m. tonight with a limited buffet service," said Jim Wolfe, 15th Services Squadron Business Operations Flight chief.

Apart from that, the Sea Breeze kitchen will continue to be closed until further notice.

"Right now, lunch and dinner operations are discontinued until further notice," said Mr. Wolfe. "However, lunch may continue in the near future and scheduled private functions will be han-



Photo courtesy of 15th Services Squadron

As bad as it looks, the fire that damaged the Sea Breeze kitchen that last week could have been far worse. Quick response by Security Forces and the Hickam Fire Department kept the facility from being burned to the ground.

dled on a case-by-case basis."

He added that the nearby Sand Bar and Grill will continue to be operate under normal hours, serving light snacks and limited grilled items.

As the Kukini was going to

press, Mr. Wolfe said he was in discussions the Big Island Restaurant Group, the private contractor that operates the Sea Breeze, on a timeline for repairs and eventual return to full service.

As Mr. Wolfe noted, a routine Security Forces patrol discovered the fire — which was restricted to the facility's kitchen — just after midnight on the morning of Thursday, June 26. Although the investigation by Hickam Fire Department officials to determine the cause of the fire is on-going, Mr. Wolfe was willing to go out on a limb and speculate.

"It appears to have been a gas leak," he said, "but we're still awaiting the official investigation results."

One matter Mr. Wolfe wouldn't leave to speculation was his praise for Hickam's first responders in the wake of the early morning event.

"Prompt actions by Security Forces and Hickam Fire Department personnel basically saved the facility," he said. "Another 30 minutes and the Sea Breeze would have been gone ... it would have burned to the ground."

RIMPAC 2008 set to start Monday

By Jeff Nicolay
Hickam Kukini editor

In case you're wondering, those military members running around base in unfamiliar uniforms are here for a reason: RIMPAC 2008, which is scheduled to begin Monday.

"RIMPAC is bi-annual exercise designed to test and strengthen the ability of the U.S. and its global partners to project naval power and influence to protect freedom and sovereignty throughout the Pacific Rim region," said Tech. Sgt. Casey Carden, 15th Airlift Wing Plans and Programs Team Hickam RIMPAC 2008 coordinator.

The sergeant noted that, over the past week, advance-team servicemembers from several main U.S. allies have been on base gearing up for the exercise, which is scheduled to run through the end of the month.

"Right now, we've got members of the Canadian and British air forces, as well as Australian sailors and soldiers," he said. "As the exercise tempo hits its peak later this month, we'll have anywhere from 600 to 1,200 military personnel from allied nations here on Hickam."

Sergeant Carden pointed out that the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM)-led exercise encompasses participants from 10 nations and is scheduled to include 35 surface vessels, six submarines, at least 150 aircraft and more than 20,000 military personnel. Over the next three and a half weeks, exercise components will be carried out in a undisclosed Pacific "play area."

Among the highlights of RIMPACare plans for several "sink-ex" operations.

"Sink-ex" is where you

See RIMPAC, A4

ACTION LINE

Recycling containers

Comment: Quick question about on-base recycling — is it possible to receive larger recycle containers? The ones we are currently provided with are very small and the lids are not attached. This makes it very easy for all types of insects and rain to get into the containers. Our family (like many on-base families) is a larger family and could recycle many more items if the containers were larger. I think it would be great if on-base residents were provided with larger recycle containers and urged to recycle more often..

Response: First of all let me thank you for your support of the Hickam recycling program — we appreciate your efforts to help conserve our natural resources! Unfortunately, due to fiscal limitations, we are unable to provide larger bins to our housing residents; however, Military Family Housing will consider requests for additional bins on a case by case basis. Additionally, residents may utilize the base recycling center to deposit recyclables between the scheduled weekly pick-up dates. Please feel free to contact my POC, Mr. Barrett Tuck, at 448-3118 for additional concerns regarding this issue.

The Action Line is your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. I urge you to use the normal chain of command first. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander's Action Line a call. If you would like me to get back to you, leave your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response. I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail to 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.



Diamond Tips

Body piercing – Apart from approved ear piercing for women, the following applies to body piercing: When in uniform, in civilian attire but on official duty or off-duty on a military installation, objects, articles, jewelry or ornamentations may not be attached to or displayed on or through the ear, nose, tongue or any exposed body part (including those visible through the uniform or clothing).



Questions? Contact your First Sergeant

Got Good News?

Why not share it? Email your story idea or press release for Hickam Kukini to:

hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil



Deadline for article submission is end of day Monday for Friday's issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300-500 words in length, and e-mailed to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil.

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Military Family Abuse Shelter 533-7125
SARC Hotline 449-7272

Kukini: Meaning swift and valued messenger, the Kukini in ancient times took news from one Hawaiian leader to another.

History-making Berlin Airlift reminds us of American might

By Gen. Carrol H. "Howie" Chandler
Commander, Pacific Air Forces

Sixty years have passed since the Air Force set out to deliver hope to Berlin — a city of 2.5 million citizens — blockaded by the Soviets beginning in June 1948. The prospects of successfully supplying the people of Berlin by air alone seemed dim. Operation Vittles delivered food, coal and other critical supplies to Berlin — a city with twice the population of Oahu — via propeller-driven C-47s and C-54s for more than a year.

Our Air Force airdropped 1.8 million tons of supplies, along with the more than 500,000 tons flown in by our British allies, during nearly 300,000 flights over Berlin. We flew an astounding 92 million miles. It was a mammoth operation demonstrating our commitment to a former enemy and America's determination to prevail over tyranny.

Through this effort, we won the hearts of Berliners and fostered the ideals of freedom. Yet often with great effort comes great sacrifice. Berlin still honors the 31 American crewmembers who gave their lives.

Today, the same message of hope still

flies out of Hawaii and bases in Alaska, Guam, Japan and South Korea. Airmen continue that effort in response to the natural disasters in the Asian-Pacific region including more than 150 flights into Burma delivering much-needed supplies and support.

“The men and women of today's Air Force are the same resolute and tenacious force they have always been.”

In addition to the aid to Burma, Hickam Air Force Base C-17 Globemaster IIIs delivered supplies to China following a severe winter storm in January, and again in May after a destructive earthquake.

Pacific Air Force's strategically



Gen. Carrol 'Howie' Chandler

placed C-17s obviously travel faster, farther and carry greater loads than the aircraft during the Berlin Airlift. Today, advanced weather forecasting, improved communications, and computer-enhanced mission planning make this all seem simple compared to the

challenges faced by Berlin Airlifters.

One thing hasn't changed in the 60 years, and that is the spirit of our Airmen. The men and women of today's Air Force are the same resolute and tenacious force they have always been. It is only through the great partnership we enjoy with the people of Hawaii and our Asia-Pacific partners that the Air Force is able to provide the global reach, vigilance and power demonstrated these past 61 years.

The Berlin Airlift and the missions we fly today remind us all what America stands for. It reminds us of American will, American might and of the sacrifices each Airman — past and present — has endured to help make our nation the symbol of freedom and the deliverer of hope throughout the world.

Appreciating the birth of a nation

By Col. Steve DePalmer
53rd Wing commander

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFPN) — As we celebrate our nation's 232nd birthday, it's humbling to look back and imagine the difficulties faced by those leaders who were "eyes on" the formation of a new republic.

In 1776, the idea of a new world colony gaining independence from the world's most powerful country appeared a bit far-fetched, and in some circles of European society, an amusing and deadly venture. Yet despite the daunting challenges, there was enough creative energy among our very different colonial state leaders to organize a new government and fight for survival.

The key to success was leadership; both in the planning stages of a new government and directly on the battlefield. Our founding fathers understood the power of leading from the front.

In the planning stage for a new republic,

the Continental Congress was wise enough to select five successful leaders to write and publish the Declaration of Independence.



Col. Steve DePalmer

This ultimate working group included Thomas Jefferson, age 33; John Adams, age 41; and Benjamin Franklin, the senior mentor at age 70.

Their finished product brazenly told the world the United States of America was open for business. The signers of the Declaration of Independence publicly put their relatively cozy lives and fortunes on the line for a new form of government.

More importantly, the Declaration of Independence helped Gen. George Washington rally his troops by putting on paper the ideals and freedoms they were fighting to establish, preserve and protect. General Washington faced incredible man-

power and resource shortfalls on the battlefield in 1776. He persevered by keeping our fighting forces intact, picking his battles wisely, and understanding that as long as we had a military we had a nation.

General Washington's art of the long view is something we all need to remember the next time we complain about resource shortfalls or the direction of our own organizations.

So a hearty "Happy birthday" to the United States of America! As a nation we have both sputtered and soared through the centuries and decades. We were, and still are, imperfect at times. Yet during other periods we seem blessed with providence. And while fate certainly is a factor in any nation's success, I believe leadership and just plain hard work generated our own good fortune.

In the end, we have survived every challenge and we remain this world's best example of what Abraham Lincoln called a nation of the people, by the people and for the people.

715 AMOG gets a new commander



Col. Jeffrey G. Mintzlaff (right), new 715th Air Mobility Operations Group commander, accepts the unit guidon from Col. Richard A. McClain, 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing commander, during a change of command ceremony held on Tuesday. The 715 AMOG — which serves under 515 AMOW — is part of Air Mobility Command's en-route system to provide fixed and deployed maintenance, aerial port, and command and control support to deployed AMC forces.

Photo by Oscar Hernandez

Leaders focus on global health security

By PACAF International Health Affairs

When a mysterious and fatal respiratory illness spread throughout Asia five years ago, millions of people around the world suddenly found themselves reluctant to take a step outside. Economies suffered in the wake of decreased tourism and loss of consumer confidence. Scientists worldwide worked around the clock to discover the cause of the illness.

Recently this scenario drew on the world’s experience with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) to illustrate threats to global health security during a briefing for the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) Transnational Security Cooperation course here June 16.

“Our relationship with APCSS is an excellent forum to network with current and future senior-level leaders in the Asia-Pacific region and educate them on the impact of health on national and global security,” said Col. John Cinco, director PACAF International Health Affairs (IHA) and adjunct professor at APCSS.

Many in the Air Force Medical Service know of the IHA program through its work organizing humanitarian assistance missions. PACAF IHA’s close collaboration with APCSS illustrates another role, however, being the subject matter expert in the emerging field of global health security studies.

The briefing presented by Lt. Col. John Oh, a preventive medicine doctor with PACAF IHA, targeted 24 Asia-Pacific country senior leaders, to include the provincial governor of Indonesia and the U.S. ambassador to Timor-Leste (former East Timor).

“PACAF IHA and APCSS have promoted a vision of health security within the framework of ‘comprehensive security,’ whereas traditionally, security has been defined by state sovereignty and territorial integrity,” said Colonel Oh. “Comprehensive security emphasizes the importance of other areas, such as health, economics, energy, food supply and the environment, which often threaten individuals more on a daily basis.”

Preparing for a possible influenza pandemic has been a shared interest of PACAF IHA

and APCSS. The issue of global health security studies is an emerging field of study among security practitioners, according to Colonel Oh.

During the daylong briefing, leaders were cautioned to remain vigilant in preparing for pandemic influenza.

“Despite SARS ceasing to be a global public health crisis after nine months and close to 900 deaths world-wide, the biology of a pandemic strain of influenza virus would most likely have e a much shorter incubation period and higher rate of infection which would challenge public health efforts to control spread,” Colonel Oh said.

“The economic devastation of pandemic influenza would be unprecedented. SARS cost Asia-Pacific economies an estimated \$40 billion as tourism declined and consumer confidence plummeted,” he added.

“Health security is an issue that transcends national borders and any organizational boundaries,” said Army Lt. Gen. (retired) Ed Smith, APCSS director. “Education and coop-

eration among many organizations is essential to meet these threats, and working with PACAF IHA is a wonderful opportunity for us to share their knowledge with representatives throughout the Asia-Pacific region.”

In addition to briefing senior leaders on global health security, the PACAF IHA team has regularly taught health security at the center’s Advanced Security Cooperation (ASC) course for mid-career security practitioners and IHA members have been students at the six-week course.

“The PACAF IHA team will continue to work with APCSS on promoting health security as an important topic requiring the active engagement of security leaders in the Asia-Pacific region,” said Colonel Cinco.

APCSS is a DoD academic institute that addresses regional and global security issues, inviting military and civilian representatives of the United States and 45 Asia-Pacific nations to its comprehensive program of executive education and conferences.



U.S. Air Force photo

Lt. Col. John Oh (upper left), PACAF IHA, briefs Asia-Pacific senior executives at the Transnational Security Cooperation Course held at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, held June 16 in Waikiki. The colonel was discussing lessons learned from the 2005 SARS outbreak. To his immediate left is Lt. Gen. (ret.) Ed Smith, APCSS director, and Brig. Gen. (ret.) James Hirai, APCSS deputy director.

Base historian earns unprecedented honor



Photo by Jeff Nicolay

Ms. Jenny Crider, 15th Airlift Wing historian, received the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Global War on Terrorism, presented for her recent deployment to Southwest Asia as a civilian Department of Defense employee. Ms. Crider was in the region in support of the Global War on Terrorism from September 2007 to January 2008. In her role as a historian, she supported and chronicled numerous activities and operations, and the process became the first DoD civilian stationed at Hickam AFB to deploy in support of the GWOT.

RIMPAC, From A1

take an out-of-commission ship, power or tow it out to the middle of the ocean, and then use it for target practice,” he said. “During RIMPAC ‘08, we’ll anchor some junks ships and then perform bombing runs from aircraft, and attacks from subs and surface vessels — all using live rounds.” The sergeant added that the sunken vessels serve as arti-

cial reefs for sea life. While the RIMPAC exercise components are playing out, the sergeant pointed out that he’ll be busy coordinating with 10 different units from four different countries, as well as PACOM and the 3rd Fleet in San Diego, which is running the exercise. “It’s going to be a busy month,” he said.

TUCK, From A1

‘freeze the stick,’” he said. “I’m going to watch how the base operates and interject only where I need to.” Expounding on what appears to be an ‘if-it-ain’t broke-don’t-fix-it’ philosophy, the colonel pointed out that it’s much easier for one person to adopt the current wing structure than for the entire wing to adapt to a new commander. “The installation looks great, Airman are motivated, our programs for our families appear to be on target,” he said. “So my short-term goal is to immerse myself in the 15th Airlift Wing, and get to know to our partner/tenant units. I want to maintain and strengthen the wing’s partnership with the Hawaii Air National Guard, Pearl Harbor , the new 5115th Air Mobility Operations Wing and all of our other tenant organizations.” Regarding the wing’s mission, Colonel Tuck said he recognizes and appreciates the strategic position of Hickam that enables the wing and base tenant units to project wartime capability throughout the Pacific. “Hickam is absolutely critical to what the nation needs to do in terms of global mobility and how the wing conducts wartime require-

ments for PACOM and PACAF commanders,” he said. “I take that mission very seriously. At the same time, we have a sacred obligation to take care of America’s son and daughters.” Asked about his views on joint basing with Pearl Harbor, the normally outspoken colonel was uncharacteristically circumspect, noting that he had not yet had an opportunity to confer with PACAF and 13th Air Force leadership on the subject. However, he was clear on joint-basing issue: his concern of Hickam’s civilian workforce. “Every one of our civilians needs to know that we will care for them, that our leadership team has their interests at heart,” said the colonel. “Ultimately, we’re going to put together a strategic communications plan to get this message out and keep our civilian workforce informed. At the same time, we will work hard with Pearl leadership to ensure the transition is seamless as we continue down our joint-base journey. This is a top priority.” Another civilian issue that has the colonel’s attention is the presence of his father — a retired Air Force chief — working on base. “I can have lunch with my dad every day — I know if I call him just before 11:30, I have a great shot at being able to have lunch with him,” laughed Colonel Tuck, who added that there is nothing awkward about having his father working under him. “He was a chief, so he knows professionally where to draw the line — in official communications, he addresses me as ‘colonel’ and ‘sir,’ and I address him as chief.

If I were to go into his office, he’d say ‘I’d like to introduce the wing commander.’ He’s a very proud parent and I’m very proud to be his son.” The colonel expressed similar pride in his own family, especially for his wife, Susie. “She pours her heart and soul into our children,” he said. “At the same time, she’s a passionate advocate for the National Military Family Association — an advocate on behalf of our military family across all service lines. Just like me, she looks forward to meeting our Airmen and seeing what she can do to help them and their families.” Looking ahead to the next two years, Colonel Tuck said he looks forward to embracing some activities from his youth, much of which was spent in Kailua. “I am going to re-learn how to surf and play the ukulele while I’m here — both of which I did when I was a boy that I haven’t had a chance to pick up since then,” he said. “And I’m a big fan of a [highly caloric lunchtime favorite] loco-moco, which I probably can’t eat every day.” With countless plate lunches ahead of him, the colonel is equally upbeat about his future, both at Hickam and in the Air Force. “Susie and I are here for two years and we certainly aren’t going to try to fix everything overnight,” he said. “And when those two years are up, I want to say we left the base a better place than when we started. “Beyond that, as long as there’s an opportunity to contribute to the Air Force and the Airmen I work with seek my advice and counsel, I’ll stay until they kick me out.”

Crime Scene



Vandalism of personal property

A military family member/spouse of an E-8 assigned to 15 CES reported vandalism to personal property on Kopiki Street. The case is currently under investigation.

Theft of unsecured personal property

An E-7 assigned to 15 AMXS reported theft of personal property on Apollo Street. The case is currently under investigation.

Shoplifting

Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives observed a fami-

ly member/child of an active-duty Air Force member attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$14.95 without rendering payment. The individual will have his/her AAFES privileges revoked for one year and is awaiting for a magistrate hearing.

Citation total for the week

- 15 Civilian traffic citations
- 18 Moving traffic citations
- 9 Non-moving traffic citations
- 4 Abandoned vehicle notices.

AF leaders discuss S. Korean security at Air Boss Conference

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea (AFPN) — Leaders from around the world came together here June 26 to 27 to discuss deterrence and evaluate the war plan used to ensure peace and stability in South Korea.

The 7th Air Force, Pacific Air Forces and Osan Air Base Commander Lt. Gen. Stephen G. Wood hosts the Air Boss Conference annually. The conference is the commander’s once-a-year opportunity to gather close to a hundred of his top U.S. and South Korean leaders (including Gen. Walter L. Sharp, the new U.S. Forces Korea commander, and numbered air forces and wing commanders). These commanders are tasked with supporting the Korean Operations Plan should deterrence fail and Air Component Command stand up. This year’s conference focuses on safe and effective execution of the 2008 air-attack plan and other offensive and defensive capabilities.

“It’s a great opportunity to bring all the air components of the coalition together, including

the South Korean and U.S. commanders of units throughout the peninsula,” General Wood said, who also serves dual-hatted as the Air Component Commander and deputy commander for U.S. Forces Korea and United Nations Command. "We pull together improving ways and methods to execute the air and space operations plan more efficiently and to discuss new technologies and tactics available to us."

“The air forces here will take lessons and new technological advances, like the unmanned aerial vehicles and ground tactics, and apply them in plans and strategies for 2008 and beyond,” the general said.

“Learning lessons from other contingency efforts from around the world has a direct impact on the mission here,” he said.

“And, improving our South Korea-U.S. war plans and deterrence efforts continues to keep us ready to fight tonight.”

Leaders discuss Korean security



U.S. Air Force photo

Air Boss Conference participants listen to a briefing from the U.S. Forces Korea Commander Gen. Walter Sharp, June 26 at Osan Air Base, South Korea.

Officers may apply for Test Pilot School

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The next annual Air Force Test Pilot School Selection Board will convene Oct. 27 through 30 at the Air Force Personnel Center here, and officers interested in applying should submit their applications to AFPC by Sept. 15.

The school trains pilots, navigators and engineers to develop, test and evaluate the newest aircraft and weapons systems.

The pilot-selects will fill positions in the fighter, multi-engine, and/or helicopter categories. The navigator-selects will fill positions in the fighter, multi-engine, and/or unmanned aerial vehicle categories. Rotary wing pilots

and engineers will conduct testing on the latest rotary wing systems to include CV-22 Osprey and special operations assets.

“The Air Force Test Pilot School is the world’s preeminent fixed-wing test pilot school,” said Howard Peterson, an AFPC special flying programs personnel technician. “Graduates of the Test Pilot School are in high demand in an era of increasing technology advancements on the battle field. Graduates also have a profound influence on the designs of future combat capabilities and ensure mission suitability for use in the field.

“In addition, the Test Pilot School conducts exchange programs with the Navy, United Kingdom, and French test pilot schools to train fixed

and rotary wing pilots and flight test engineers.”

New graduates of Test Pilot School are awarded a master of science degree in flight test engineering by Air University, accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Applicants from all aircraft types and backgrounds must have strong academic and technical experience and a desire to help develop the next generation of Air Force weapons systems.

For more information, visit the AFPC "Ask" Web site and search for "test pilot." You can also get more information through the 24-hour Air Force Contact Center at 800-616-3775. For additional details on the TPS application process and requirements, visit the TPS Web site.